

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of December 10, 2007 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. However, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0076021 to Lopez, *et al.* (hereinafter Lopez) in view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2003/0154073 to Ota, *et al.* (hereinafter Ota).

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the claim rejections, Applicants have amended the claims so as to expedite prosecution of the present application. It is expressly noted, however, that the amendments should not be interpreted as the surrender of any subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to present the original version of any of the amended claims in any future divisional or continuation applications from the present application.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 10, and 19 to further emphasize certain aspects of the invention. As discussed herein, the claim amendments are fully supported throughout the Specification. No new matter has been introduced by the claim amendments.

Aspects of Applicants Invention

It may be helpful to reiterate certain aspects of Applicants' invention prior to addressing the cited references. One embodiment of the invention, as typified by amended Claim 1, is a method of providing identifying information over a voice communications link.

The method can include receiving, from a call participant, a personal identification code over the voice communications link, determining identifying information for the call participant using the personal identification code, and encoding the identifying information of the call participant. See, e.g., Specification, paragraphs [0021]-[0024]; see also Fig. 2.

The method also can include identifying inaudible portions of a voice signal within a voice stream carried by the voice communications link; removing the identified inaudible portions from the voice signal; embedding the encoded identification information within the voice stream in place of the removed inaudible portions of the voice signal; and sending the voice stream as well as the embedded identifying information to a subscriber. See, e.g., Specification, paragraphs [0025]-[0030]; see also Fig. 2.

The Claims Define Over the Cited References

Lopez discloses a method of providing a caller ID service which can be used to identify the calling party regardless of the phone used to make the call. It was conceded in the Office Action that Lopez fails to disclose encoding the identifying information of the call participant and embedding the encoded identification information within a voice stream, and sending the voice stream and the embedded identifying information to a subscriber. However, it was asserted in the Office Action that Ota teaches encoding the identifying information of the call participant and embedding the encoded identification information within a voice stream carried by the voice communications link (paragraph [0179]).

Ota discloses a data embedding method for embedding optional data in encoded voice code obtained by encoding voice by a prescribed voice encoding scheme. As described in paragraph [0179] of Ota, a voice print generated by the authentication data

generator 111, 211 is embedded in the encoded voice code data by the embedding unit 103, 203 and extracted by the authentication unit 112, 212 (see Fig. 31). However, Ota does not disclose identifying inaudible portions of a voice signal within a voice stream carried by the voice communications link, removing the identified inaudible portions from the voice signal, or embedding the encoded identification information within the voice stream in place of the removed inaudible portions of the voice signal, as recited in amended Claims 1, 10, and 19 of the instant application.

It was asserted in the Office Action that paragraph [0017] of Lopez discloses removing inaudible portions a speech signal, and embedding the identifying information in place of the inaudible portions of the speech signal within the voice stream, as recited in original claims 5, 14, and 23 of the instant application. However, after carefully reviewing paragraph [0017] of Lopez, it is not clear to Applicants how this paragraph has anything to do with removing inaudible portions a speech signal and embedding the identifying information in place of the inaudible portions of the speech signal within the voice stream. Paragraph [0017] of Lopez merely describes how the subscriber information is stored and activated.

Accordingly, the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of Claims 1, 10, and 19, as amended. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1, 10, and 19 define over the prior art. Furthermore, as each of the remaining claims depends from Claim 1, 10, or 19 while reciting additional features, Applicants further respectfully submit that the remaining claims likewise define over the prior art.

Newly-Added Claims

New Claims 28-30 have been added to recite that the process of providing identification information is invoked based upon rules defined by the subscriber or as

desired by the subscriber. The support for these claims can be found, e.g., in Specification, paragraph [0016]. Claims 28-30 are believed to be patentable given that the features recited in these are not disclosed by any of the cited references and because each depends from Claims 1, 10, or 19, which are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed above.

In view of forgoing, Applicants thus respectfully request that the claims rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

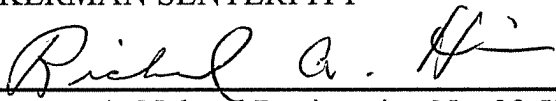
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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